



NEWS RELEASE

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Nov. 7, 2014

Fourth Defendant Found Guilty in Lancaster Ranch Killings

A fourth codefendant has been found guilty of two murders at a plastic surgeon's ranch in Lancaster, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Blake said Arturo Rosales Verdín, 47, was found guilty late yesterday of two counts of first-degree murder with special circumstances of committing them for financial gain, lying in wait and multiple murders in case MA039342.

Verdín is expected to be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, along with codefendants Nicolas Cordoba, 63, and Antonio Martínez, 51, at a hearing scheduled on Jan. 23 in Department 106 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Martínez was found guilty of the same counts and special circumstances on Aug. 28.

On that same date Nicolas Cordoba, 63, was found guilty of one count of murder with the special circumstances of lying in wait and murder for financial gain.

Dr. Esfandiar "Steve" Kadivar, 64, who had medical offices in Palmdale, had a large ranch raising crops such as alfalfa and pistachios. Cordoba lived on the property and orchestrated the killings, according to trial testimony.

On July 5, 2006, Verdín and Antonio Martínez shot the doctor to death as he fed his animals, according to witnesses.

Soon after the murder, Cordoba negotiated a lease of the ranch and brought in Efraín Martines to help finance the lease, according to witness testimony.

The following year, Cordoba had a falling out with Martines and then hired Marco Antonio García, 38, to kill him for \$5,000, witnesses added.

On April 28, 2007, García shot Martines to death while he worked at the ranch. Verdín and Antonio Martínez helped García carry out the murder and helped orchestrate taking the victim's remains to a location several miles away, the prosecutor added.

García pleaded guilty to first-degree murder with the special circumstances of lying in wait and financial gain on June 4. His sentencing is scheduled on Dec. 19 in Department 106 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Homicide Bureau.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.